

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1627

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, GE
SUBJECT: TRIAL OF NICO HUEBNER: WEST BERLIN REACTION

REF: USBERLIN 1526 AND PREVIOUS

1. WE HAVE REPORTED IN SEPTEL STATEMENT BY NICO HUEBNER
PUBLISHED ON JULY 10 FOLLOWING HIS SENTENCING. THIS MESSAGE
COVERS WEST BERLIN REACTION TO THE SENTENCING.
2. SPOKESMAN FOR WEST BERLIN SENAT BRANDED HUEBNER'S PENALTY
OF FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT AS "A TERROR SENTENCE", IMPOSITION
OF WHICH PLACED THE GDR LEGAL SYSTEM OUTSIDE THOSE OF CIVILIZED
STATES. SENAT SPOKESMAN ALSO BRANDED SENTENCE AS CLEARCUT
VIOLATION OF THE QUADRIPARTITE STATUS OF ALL OF BERLIN.
3. PRESIDENT OF BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND CDU
LEADER LORENZ ASSERTED THAT SENTENCE WAS A "PROVOCATIVE VIOLA-
TION OF LAW" WHICH CALLED INTO QUESTION THE PROCESS OF DETENTE.
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4. FDP LEADER AND MAYOR LUEDER (LUEDER IS DEPUTY TO
GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE) ALSO PROTESTED THIS "BRUTAL AND
LENGTHY SENTENCE."
5. BERLIN SPD PARTY PRESIDENT LOEFFLER CALLED THE SEN-
TENCE PROOF OF THE ABSENCE OF CIVILIZED AND DEMOCRATIC

METHODS IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE APPARATUS OF THE GDR AND ITS OWN CITIZENS. BERLIN YOUNG SOCIALISTS HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED INDIGNATION ABOUT THE SENTENCE.

6. WEST BERLIN WORKING GROUP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS BRANDED GDR ASSERTIONS THAT ITS STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF HUEBNER WERE INTERFERENCE IN GDR INTERNAL AFFAIRS AS "ABSURD AND WITHOUT SUPPORT."

7. THE SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN FRANKFURT WILL BEGIN COLLECTION SIGNATURES THROUGHOUT FRG ON A PETITION FOR HUEBNER'S RELEASE AS THEY ARE ALREADY DOING FOR RUDOLF BAHRO.

8. PRESS REACTION WAS EQUALLY CRITICAL. BERLINER MORGENPOST (INDEPENDENT) ON JULY 8 CONTRASTED SITUATION IN WEST BERLIN WHERE HUNDREDS OF YOUNG WEST GERMANS COME WHO WISH TO AVOID MILITARY SERVICE WITH FIVE YEAR SENTENCE IMPOSED ON HUEBNER. "EAST BERLIN HAD TO CONDEMN HIM IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ITS CLAIM OF FULL GDR SOVEREIGNTY FOR THE EASTERN PART OF THE CITY." SPANDAUER VOLKSBLATT (PRO-SPD) EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE PESSIMISM ON POSSIBILITY OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DIFFERING SOCIAL ORDERS OF EAST AND WEST NOTING RECENT CONVICTION OF BAHRO AND HUEBNER IN GDR AND PENDING TRIALS OF SHCHARANSKY AND GINZBURG IN THE USSR. PAPER COMMENTED CONFIDENTIAL

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"MOSCOW AND ITS MOST FAITHFUL VASSAL EAST BERLIN SHAMELESSLY PUT CRITICS OF THEIR SYSTEM BEHIND BARS....AND WE MUST ASSUME THAT THESE CASES ARE MERELY THE TIP OF AN ICEBERG, THE BULK OF WHICH REMAINS CONCEALED FROM WESTERN OBSERVERS."

9. COMMENT: WIDE RANGING AND EXTREMELY ADVERSE REACTION TO HUEBNER'S SENTENCING MAKES IT MORE PROBABLE THAT A QUESTION CONCERNING HUEBNER WILL BE RAISED DURING THE PRESIDENT'S TOWN MEETING JULY 15. WE UNDERSTAND EMBASSY BERLIN HAS SENT SEPTTEL COVERING THIS POSSIBILITY. END COMMENT. GEORGE

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